WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (N.W.T.)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC) (NWT) was formed as a result of the signing of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) and the enactment of the Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act. The WMAC (NWT) has been in existence since early in 1986. After an initial period of organization, the Council began its first full year of activities in 1987/88. The Council's activities from 1986 until March 31, 1988 are summarized in its First Annual Report (1988).

This Second Annual Report covers the activities of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) during the 1988/89 fiscal year (April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989).

ROLE OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

The role of the WMAC (NWT) is set out in Section 14 of the IFA (see Appendix A). During 1988/89, the Council was involved in many of its mandated activities, and overall increased its activities over previous years. The WMAC (NWT) continued to work closely with the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) as well as with government agencies responsible for wildlife management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR).

ACTIVITIES DURING FISCAL YEAR 1988/89

OFFICERS AND STAFF

During 1988/89, the WMAC (NWT) had essentially the same membership as in 1987/88 (see Appendix B). Mr. Roger Binne from the Government of the Northwest Territories in Inuvik joined the Council as an alternate for Mr. Jim Bourque. Mr. Bill Mair served as Chairman of the Council until the end of March, 1989. Mr. Andy Carpenter continued to act as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Leslie Treseder, Resource Person - Wildlife, Joint Secretariat, served as Secretary to the WMAC (NWT). Dr. Norm Snow, Executive Director of the Joint Secretariat, provided administrative and technical support to the Council, as did other staff at the Joint Secretariat.

During 1988/89, Mr. Bill Mair informed the WMAC (NWT) of his intention to resign as Chairman. In consultation with the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Department of Environment, the Government of the Northwest Territories appointed Mr. John Bailey as the new Chairman of the Council, effective April 1, 1989. Mr. Mair will continue to be involved as a member of the Council, representing the Government of the NWT.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The WMAC (NWT) held a total of five meetings during 1988/89. Regular meetings on June 22, 1988, October 7, 1988 and February 13, 1989 were held in conjunction with meetings of the Inuvialuit Game Council. In addition, the WMAC (NWT) held two teleconference meetings during 1988/89. These were held on April 25, 1988 and December 1, 1988. The Chairman and other members of the WMAC (NWT) attended regular meetings of the IGC on June 21, 1988, October 6, 1988 and February 16, 1989 to report on Council activities and provide advice to the IGC.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The WMAC (NWT) is mandated by Section 14 (60)(b) of the IFA to produce a conservation and management plan for the Western Arctic Region. Significant progress was made on this document during 1987/88, and the final text was approved by the members of WMAC (NWT) on April 25, 1988. The Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan was published during the summer of 1988 and released in October. The Plan, written in English and three dialects of Inuvialuktun, outlines goals and objectives for achieving conservation at the Regional level. The WMAC (NWT) will use this document to guide its future activities. Copies are available from the Joint Secretariat in Inuvik.

One of the major objectives of the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan is the production of individual conservation plans for each of the Inuvialuit communities. The WMAC (NWT) devoted considerable effort to the development of the first community conservation plan for Paulatuk during 1988/89. Workshops were held in the community in June, 1988 and February, 1989. Meetings with the community working group were held throughout the fiscal year. The Council also supported the Paulatuk working group and its consultations with members of the community.

As of March 31, 1989, the Paulatuk Conservation Plan was at the third draft stage. It is expected that this document will be finalized by the fall of 1989, and that work on conservation plans in the other communities will proceed after that date. The Paulatuk Conservation Plan has been developed in co-operation with the Mackenzie Delta Beaufort Sea Regional Land Use Planning Commission, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee and many of the government agencies responsible for renewable resource management in the ISR. This co-operative effort represents an attempt to integrate renewable resource management in the area. It also reflects financial constraints, as the WMAC (NWT) lacks the resources to develop community conservation plans on its own. The Council hopes that this cooperation will continue when other community conservation plans are developed.

One of the main recommendations of the Paulatuk Conservation Plan is that a National Park be established in the Bluenose Lake area east of the community. The WMAC (NWT) conveyed this recommendation to the IGC on February 16, 1989 and obtained a resolution of support from them. Following that meeting, the WMAC (NWT) transmitted the recommendation for a National Park to the Minister of Environment. The Council expects to work closely with the community of Paulatuk and the Canadian Parks Service on this Park proposal over the next few years.

QUOTAS FOR WILDLIFE HARVESTING

One of the duties of the WMAC (NWT) is to "determine and recommend appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting in the Western Arctic Region" (IFA section 14 (60)(c)). The Council is to determine such quotas "...according to conservation criteria and such other factors as it considers appropriate." (IFA section 14 (36)(a)). During 1988/89, the WMAC (NWT) had its first opportunity to put these sections of the IFA into practice.

During 1987/88, the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee (HTC) submitted a proposal for a grizzly bear quota in the area west of the Anderson River. The area was not subject to any quotas, but was also closed to commercial and sport hunting of grizzly bears. After considerable community consultation, the

WMAC (NWT) agreed early in 1988/89 that the community should move to a quota system. The GNWT was requested to provide information on the bear population in the area, and the Inuvialuit Harvest Study estimated the currently grizzly bear harvest.

On June 22, 1988, the WMAC (NWT) resolved to recommend a quota of seven bears for the area west of the Anderson River to the NWT Minister of Renewable Resources. This recommendation was based on the current state of knowledge of the bear population, the current harvest practices and the wishes of the community of Tuktoyaktuk. On September 23, 1988, the Council's recommendation was accepted by the NWT Minister of Renewable Resources. The WMAC (NWT) transmitted this recommendation to the Inuvialuit Game Council, since they are responsible for allocating quotas among the communities.

In February, 1989, the IGC allocated the quota of seven bears to the Tuktoyaktuk HTC. During 1989/90, the WMAC (NWT) will work with the Tuktoyaktuk HTC to draft the first by-law governing Inuvialuit harvesting rights under the IFA and to enact the quota for grizzly bears west of the Anderson River into legislation.

The Council was pleased that in its first attempt to enact these provisions of the IFA, the interests of all parties could be satisfied. The members are hopeful that this process can be repeated when other quotas are determined in the future.

LEGISLATION CHANGES

As a result of a system adopted during 1987/88, the WMAC (NWT) responds to community requests for changes to the NWT Wildlife Act or other legislation. During 1988/89 the Council dealt with proposals to change the hunting season for muskox throughout the ISR and to introduce sport hunting for Dall's sheep in the Richardson Mountains.

Throughout the 1988/89 fiscal year, WMAC (NWT) members were involved in discussions with the Government of the Northwest Territories regarding amendments to the NWT Wildlife Act. This legislation is being changed to reflect the provisions of the IFA. Over the next few years, the WMAC (NWT) expects that this project will be one of its major activities.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

As one of its ongoing duties, the WMAC (NWT) reviews proposals for wildlife research in the Western Arctic Region. The second annual review of studies being undertaken by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the GNWT Department of Renewable Resources was held on February 13, 1989. Most of the projects reviewed were continuations of work that was started over the past couple of years.

During 1988/89, the WMAC (NWT) became more involved in wildlife research. The need for review of long-term priorities for research was identified, as was the need for co-ordination with other bodies such as the Fisheries Joint Management Committee and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope). Research priorities will be reviewed by the WMAC (NWT) early in the 1989/90 fiscal year. The Council is also taking steps to work more closely with other agencies involved in wildlife research in the Western Arctic Region.

PUBLICATIONS

In 1987/88, the WMAC (NWT) agreed to standardize its publications and adopted a logo. During 1988/89, the idea of a Technical Report Series arose. This series will serve as a vehicle for distribution of the results of wildlife research projects funded by the IFA implementation budget. Six reports were submitted for publication during 1988/89, and these will be published during the summer of 1989. Also as part of the Technical Report Series, the WMAC (NWT) developed the Renewable Resource Directory for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. This document is intended as a companion to Community Conservation Plans, and will serve as a reference on renewable resource management agencies in the ISR. The Renewable Resource Directory will be published during the summer of 1989 as WMAC (NWT) Technical Report Number 1.

COMMUNICATION

During 1988/89 it became apparent that many people within the ISR were unaware of the mandate and activities of the WMAC (NWT). To remedy this situation, the Council began preparing news releases after each meeting. These are sent to all the major newspapers and radio stations in the Region. Minutes from all regular Council meetings are sent to the community Hunters and Trappers Committees to keep the Inuvialuit communities informed of WMAC (NWT) activities. It is expected that a communication strategy will be further developed by Council members over the next year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

During 1988/89, the WMAC (NWT) began to develop a working relationship with its counterpart in the Yukon, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope). WMAC (NWT) staff attended the inaugural meeting of the WMAC (NS) in Aklavik in May, 1988. The two groups regularly exchange information and it is expected that they will work closely together on projects such as Conservation Planning and wildlife research in the future.

Other issues which the Council dealt with during 1988/89 included the Government of the NWT Outpost Camp Program, the Thelon Game

Sanctuary, training of Inuvialuit and the review of critical times and areas for wildlife. This latter project was undertaken at the request of the Environmental Impact Screening Committee.

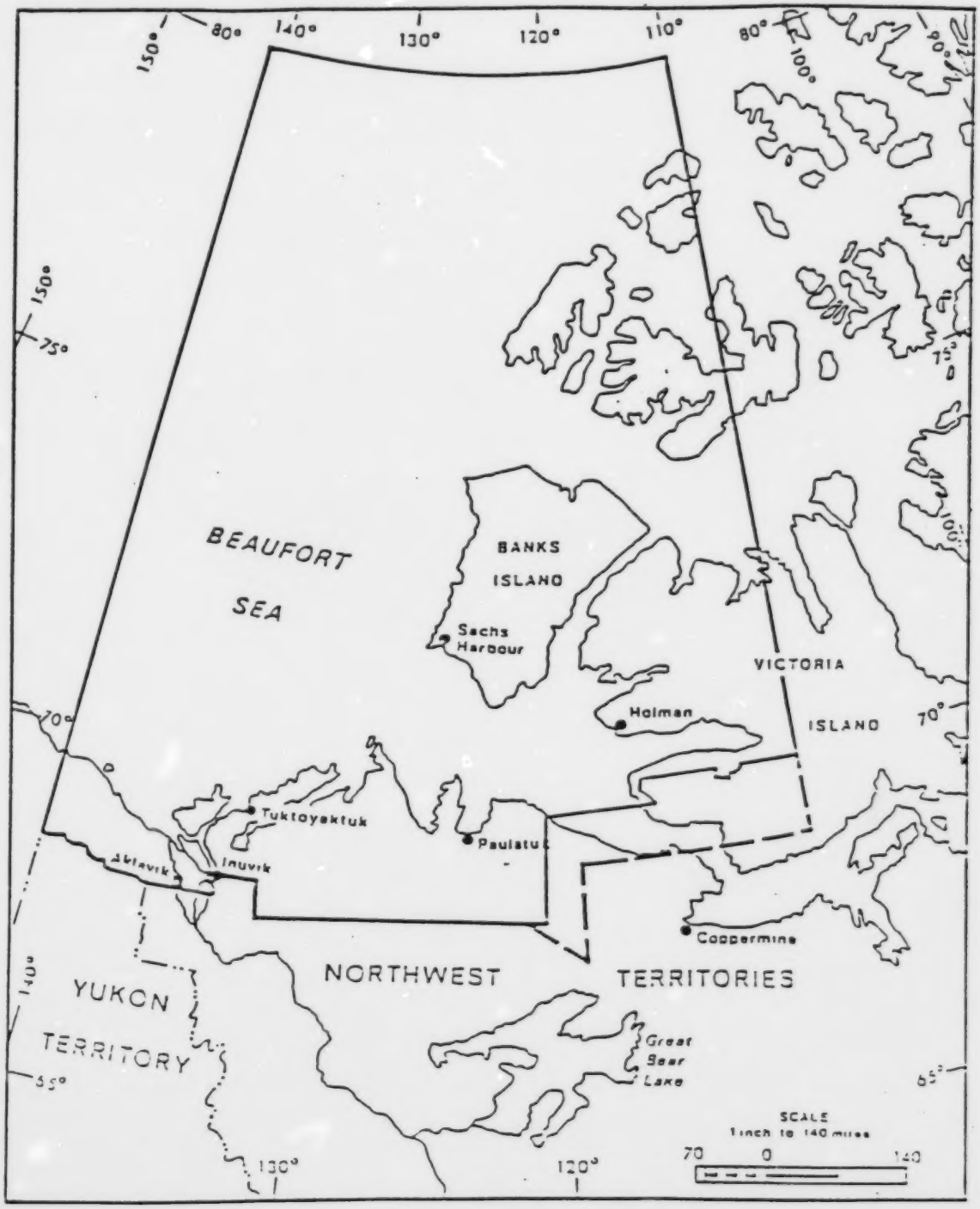
FINANCIAL REPORT

During 1988/89, WMAC (NWT) expenditures totalled $70,362.40. Almost half of this amount was spent on publication of the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan and development of the Paulatuk Conservation Plan. Remaining expenses were related to travel and associated costs for the Chairman and Inuvialuit representatives to attend regular Council meetings. Attempts were made during 1988/89 to minimize travel and associated expenses, in order to have sufficient resources available for the Paulatuk Conservation Plan.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

During its second full year of operations, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) made some significant progress in achieving the objectives of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. Publication of the Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan and establishment of a grizzly bear quota in the Tuktoyaktuk area were major milestones for the fiscal year.

Development of the Paulatuk Conservation Plan is setting a precedent for community-based conservation and integration of resource management activities. As in the past, there was excellent co-operation between the Council, the Inuvialuit and government agencies responsible for resource management in the Region. Despite funding constraints, the Council will continue to work to achieve conservation, integrated management and full participation of the Inuvialuit in renewable resource management decision-making in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.



The Inuvialuit Settlement Region

APPENDIX A: ROLE OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT) AS SET OUT IN THE INUVIALUIT FINAL AGREEMENT

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

14 (45) A council to be known as the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) is to be established as soon as possible after the execution of this Agreement.

14 (46) The Council shall initially have seven (7) members: the Chairman of the Council, one (1) representing Canada, two (2) representing the Government of the Northwest Territories and three (3) representing the Inuvialuit.

14 (47) The Council shall have jurisdiction in respect of that portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region that falls within the Northwest Territories including the adjacent near shore and offshore waters.

14 (48) The Council shall have as permanent members a Chairman and an equal number of native and government members.

14 (49) The permanent government members of the Council shall include persons designated by the Government of the Northwest Territories, and one person designated by the Minister of the Environment of Canada.

14 (50) In addition to permanent members of the Council, temporary members may be co-opted from government departments or native groups, as they may be required from time to time.

14 (51) The permanent members of the Council appointed to represent the native interests shall include persons designated by the Inuvialuit.

14 (52) Other native groups that have acquired harvesting rights in the Western Arctic Region under their land claims settlements shall be entitled to designate a representative.

14 (53) Pursuant to subsections (39) to (41), where native people adjacent to the Western Arctic Region harvest a game resource in common with the Inuvialuit, those native people shall be entitled to membership on the Council on an equitable basis with the Inuvialuit for the consideration of the harvestable quotas and allocation of the subsistence quotas for that game resource.

14 (54) The Chairman of the Council shall be appointed by the Government of the Northwest Territories, with the consent of the Inuvialuit and Canada.

14 (55) The permanent members of the Council shall each have one (1) vote. The Chairman shall have a vote only in case of a deadlock. Temporary members shall not have a vote.

14 (56) The Council may establish rules and adopt by-laws regulating its procedures, including the holding of public hearings.

14 (57) The Government of the Northwest Territories agrees to provide a secretariat to assist in meeting the administrative needs of the Council.

14 (58) Meetings of the Council shall be held once a year or more often as the appropriate minister or the Council decides.

14 (59) Each party shall pay the remuneration and expenses of the members of the Council that it appoints or designates.

14 (6) The Council shall, on request, provide advice to the appropriate ministers on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Western Arctic Region and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the Council shall:

(a) provide advice on issues pertaining to the Western Arctic region to wildlife management boards, land use commissions, the Screening Committee and Review Board and any other appropriate bodies;

(b) prepare a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Western Arctic Region for recommendation to the appropriate authorities as a means for achieving and maintaining the principles set out in subsection (1) to (5);

(c) determine and recommend appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting in the Western Arctic Region;

(d) determine and recommend harvestable quotas for migratory game species referred to in subsections (39) and (40) where they are harvested by native peoples other than the Inuvialuit, whether inside or outside the Western Arctic Region;

(e) review and advise the Government on any proposed Canadian position for international purposes that affects wildlife in the Western Arctic Region;

(f) review and advise the appropriate government on existing or proposed wildlife legislation;

(g) advise on measures required to protect habitat that is critical for wildlife or harvesting in the Western Arctic Region; and

(h) request from time to time, if appropriate, the participation of the local Hunters and Trappers Committees in the regulation of the subsistence harvest and the collection of subsistence harvest information.

APPENDIX B: MEMBERSHIP OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (N.W.T.) 1988/89

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Alternate -
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		Albert Elias General Delivery Holman, N.W.T. X0E 0S0
		Nelson Green General Delivery Paulatuk, N.W.T. X0E 1N0